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Letter from the Literary Editor

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Letter from the Literary Editor

ADNAN HASHTAM

“The truth is always something that is told, not something that is known. If there were no speaking or writing, there would be no truth about anything. There would only be what is.

— Susan Sontag, *The Benefactor* (1963)

To create art is to address the revolting, the hidden, and the most despised of what is in our world, to give it form and meaning and transform it into truth. That truth can translate to hope, or longing for an alternative reality, or merely serve as a revelation. Writing, as a form of confrontation, has the ability to be both invasive and vulnerable. It pushes us to recognize aspects of both our personal and collective lives that we otherwise might overlook. Thus, to write and create is to question, to protest, and to reveal the hidden and the confined.

This year’s Calliope reflects the ways in which writing as an art form establishes counter-realities. Accordingly, this year Calliope’s theme is ‘Opia’. As defined in John Koenig’s *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows*, Opia means “the ambiguous intensity of looking someone in the eye, which can feel simultaneously invasive and vulnerable”. Thus, this issue of Calliope is based on that intensity, in confrontation and revelation.

As writers we have, the sometime dreadful, responsibility of telling the truth. This edition of Calliope reflects that very responsibility. It reflects University of the Pacific’s commitment to creativity and innovation—its perceptive and diverse student body and the many truths that we are moved to tell.

I have been privileged to serve as Calliope’s Literary Editor-in-Chief. I look forward to you, the reader, confronting the miraculously laid out visual and literary art before you.